

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 260948Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1803

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 9402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: ASSEMBLY AND SENATE ELECT PRESIDING OFFICERS

REF: ANKARA 9354

1. THE TURKISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECEMBER 24 ENDED A 54-DAY STALEMATE BY RE-ELECTING REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY KEMAL GUVEN AS SPEAKER. GUVEN'S ELECTION OCCURRED WHEN THE NATIONALIST FRONT CANDIDATE INDEPENDENT KEMAL OZTURK WITHDREW AND SEVERAL OF HIS FORMER SUPPORTERS, APPARENTLY FROM THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP), BELATEDLY HONORING THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT VOTED FOR GUVEN. ON THE 48TH BALLOT GUVEN RECEIVED 200 VOTES-- 54 MORE THAN THE NECESSARY MAJORITY OF THE PLENARY.

2. DECEMBER 25, THE RPP WASTED NO TIME IN FULFILLING ITS PART OF THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, AND JP SENATOR TEKIN ARIBURUN WAS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. HIS ELECTION RESULTED WHEN SENATOR SADI IRMAK, WHO HAD BEEN SUPPORTEDBY THE RPP ON THE THREE PREVIOUS BALLOTS WITHDREW. ON THE FOURTH BALLOT, ARIBURUN RECEIVED 140 VOTES -- 46 MORE THAN NECESSARY.

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3. COMMENT: GENERAL REACTION OF POLITICIANS AND THE PRESS HAS BEEN ONE OF RELIEF. THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), WHICH HAD BEEN INSISTING THAT THE NATIONALIST FRONT COULD AND SHOULD ELECT ONE OF ITS OWN MEMBERS SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, IS THE ONLY MAJOR DISATISFIED ELEMENT. THE NSP ISSUED A STATEMENT DEC. 25 ACCUSING THE JP OF BREAKING ITS PROMISE TO ITS COALITION PARTNERS AND ALLEGING THE JP ACTION HAS SHOWN IT TO PREFER THE RPP TO THE NATIONALIST FRONT PARTIES. THIS OUTSPOKEN NSP CRITICISM OF THE JP HAS INEVITABLY REVIVED RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE BREAK-UP IN THE COALITION AND SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE FORMULATIONS OF NEW ONES.  
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